



# Evaluation of Aesthetic, Functional, and Environmental Effects on the Design of Urban Open Spaces: A Case Study of İstanbul Şişhane Park, Turkey

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## ABSTRACT

*Urban spaces reflect the reality of city life, like a mirror. This research aims to examine and analyze the advanced aesthetic, functional, and environmental performance of urban public spaces by assessing the current situation and highlighting the role of creativity in developing these spaces. To clarify the research scope, Şişhane Park in İstanbul, Turkey was studied to define the requirements of creative standards, evaluate these competencies and choose the appropriate architectural style and urban furniture. In addition, to learn ways of preserving those elements for longer life. The analytical descriptive approach was the research method utilized in order to arrive at a set of results that ascertain the reality of the aesthetic, functional, and environmental performance of urban public spaces, and the reflection of the contemporary role in developing these spaces, which can contribute to addressing weaknesses and bolster the strength points in the formation of public urban spaces around the world.*



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## 1. Introduction

Urban spaces are considered one of the essentials of the city's urban structure because of their great importance to the community and to human communication, to conduct many activities that can't be carried out within the residential area, and to achieve physical and psychological comfort in squares and parks to suit the community of diverse ages and socio-economic levels (Al-Dweikat, 2009).

The lack of sufficient green recreation space has garnered the attention of urban planners to create new recreational spaces.

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In addition, there is a clear deterioration in urban and visual perception such as: lack of creating a distinctive urban design, lack of arrangement and equipment with appropriate fixtures, and visual and noise pollution spread due to traffic jams, neglecting climate factors and not satisfying them with sufficient vegetation and water elements, places filled with rubbish, covered with graffiti, filled with unsightly, poorly maintained buildings, unsafe by the homeless at night. Moreover, there is an emergence of psychological problems caused by social diseases due to poor interaction between human and landscape (the relationship between observer and landscape), the neglect of the important role of art in our modern world, and social diseases are caused by a lack of understanding of how urban spatial structure affect psychological well-being of people who use urban space. The need for attention and clear intention to the urban environment has become greater and more important than ever, because it is the most important place in our cities, where the greatest human communication and interaction occurs ([Tibbalds, 1992](#)).

### 1.1 Significance of this Research and Its Objectives

The significance of this study is to describe some of the most important problems and challenges plaguing urban open spaces around the world, and Turkey in particular. These include the wasting of visual and aesthetic elements enjoyed in urban spaces, the lack of attractive elements that meet the needs of the population, unavailability of comfort and social activities, lack of intentional design to serve and promote the obvious interaction between the community and nature, and the lack of a satisfying response to the social, psychological, and behavioral needs of the users of these urban spaces.

The aim of this research is to improve aesthetic, functional, and environmental efficiency of urban open spaces through inspiring the possibility of addressing some aspects of the imbalance in space configuration. Upgrades to this configuration must match the importance of historical and touristic cities, thus this research seeks to demonstrate the role of urban open spaces in the aesthetic, functional, and environmental appearance of the city by presenting global examples that succeed in achieving the most important conditions required to reach the desired effect. Lastly, this study emphasizes the importance of the integration between the design process and urban planning,

between science and art, to achieving functionality and meeting community needs.

## 2. Methods and Materials

Relying on the inductive analytical approach, the concept of integrated urban open space will be presented in this research. It highlights the most important standards and requirements to reach an efficient urban open space selected from published books and research by important authors in the urban design world. To make these practical, this paper analyses successful urban open spaces that meet the standards and requirements, while aptly demonstrating integration of aesthetics, function, and the environment:

- "Sound Wave" in China, characterized by its unique aesthetic characteristics, a new design idea, the use of appropriate materials, attractive color selection, and revitalization of the country's heritage through traditional Chinese music for visitors.
- "Superkilen" in Denmark notable for its success in meeting a variety of functional needs including containment of many recreational activities that can be performed, respect for all categories of people, embrace of many different nationalities in one urban open space, and the application of new taken ideas from the civilizations of different countries.
- "Victor Civita Plaza" in Brazil which is based on an innovative approach to revitalizing a polluted urban area and preserving the environment, creating a new sustainable solution, and continuing this approach by providing visitors with greater environmental awareness.

Additionally, this paper analyses the demonstration of the standards by case study of "Şişhane Park" in Istanbul, Turkey between the date of its establishment in 2014 and July 2019. Comprehensive assessment of these characteristics was conducted through visits to the site, review of changes to the urban space, and photos illustrating the current situation. The analysis of Şişhane Park asks:

- Have all the requirements of an efficient urban open space been met?
- Did the passage of time affect the quality and performance?
- What are the most affected elements?

## 3. Literature Review

- Urban spaces include a huge amount of activities and movement and large numbers of a city's population. The importance of urban spaces lies in their

influence on the lives and behavior of individuals in the urban environment, which serves multiple functions that are considered to be at the heart of the public's best interest. It can be a place of comfort and psychological balance for the urban population, stimulating social relations among the community, and instilling a sense of belonging and familiarity to their residential areas, while also providing aesthetic touches to the urban environment (Figure 1).

- Through intentional design of urban open spaces, they can preserve the environment in thoughtful ways, for example by use of certain materials that are harmless to the environment. Its usefulness is
- also greater and more comprehensive if it meets all the aesthetic, functional, and environmental required terms and is designed with creative ideas, keeps pace with modernity and technology to reach the highest level to achieve its goal.



**Figure 1.** Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate, in Chicago's Millennium Park, 2004 [URL1; URL2]

The city is described as an element representing the social and spiritual culture of society. Urban spaces in any urban configuration can be

considered as the remaining non-built areas of the city, whether planned or unplanned, and these spaces include roads, public squares, green areas, and playgrounds (Krier, 1991). Urban spaces have the ability to focus representation of important parts of the city's culture and to show the relationships and ratios among its different parts (Figure 2). They even have the ability to form the city, serving as population assembly points and cross sections of movement, and the city supports these spaces through the good organization of its surroundings and good guidance for the paths leading to them (Lynch, 1960). Regardless of the diverse uses of urban spaces, these urban spaces are places where the physical elements are defined by the human activities conducted in them, each having a key role to influence how they are used.



**Figure 2:** Left: Skaters exploring the urban microgeography, Melbourne; middle: performing as 'statues', Leicester Square, London; right: Play interrupts instrumental flows, entry to Flinders Street Railway Station, Melbourne (Stevens, 2006).

The researchers Kevin Lynch (1960), Jane Jacobs (1961), Allen Jacobs & Appleyard (1987), Francis Tibbalds (1992), Rob Krier (1979), and Carmona & others (2010) were interested in one of the urban space characteristics - aesthetics, function, or the environment. They elaborated on only one aspect, without explaining the relationship between the characteristics of urban space and their impact on each other (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Classification of aesthetic, functional, and environmental criteria for urban space from the perspective of several researchers.

Aesthetic Aspect of Urban Space	Source	Functional Aspect of Urban Space	Source	Environmental Aspect of Urban Space	Source
Compatibility and harmony between urban elements Proportionality Ability to sense and communicate Understanding the place Vitality, similarity, color, shape, transparency, simplicity Organization of the movement	Kevin Lynch, 1960	Method of organizing public spaces. Nature of activities. Outdoor open space. Entertainment. Sports events. Vehicles' and pedestrian's movement. Urban hygiene and reduction of pollution in all its forms.	Rob Krier, 1979	Climate Geology and Earth Form Water and discharge Topography Vegetation and ecological nature Natural visual features Social welfare Environmental awareness	Turner, 1980

Vitality Flexible spaces availability Linking users socially To be able to carry out various activities	<a href="#">Jane Jacobs, 1961</a>	The multiplicity of uses the urban space. The multiplicity of activities that can be carried out within this space. Accessibility for all people. Creating clear and permanent environments. Encouraging and organizing the pedestrian movement.	<a href="#">Francis Tibbalds, 1992</a>	Ethics and respect for individual Participation and democratization Structuring through net works The natural world and sensory experience Urban density Respect for a spirit of place Ecology and economy	<a href="#">Ekhart Hahn, 1987</a>
Visual perception Achieving joy and social communication Maintain the identity of the place Originality	<a href="#">Allen Jacobs &amp; Appleyard, 1987</a>	<i>General criteria</i> Taking into account site topography. Nature of soil and climate. Provide an adequate share of the individual's activities and services. Achieving communication between the elements of the urban space and the surrounding environment. Maintain it as a continuous natural resource. Protect it from noise and pollution.	<a href="#">Kevin Lynch, 1994</a>	Achieve multiple urban spaces Social interaction Giving vitality to the neighborhood unity Link and sense of place Integration of land uses, which promotes social, economic and environmental returns Focus on mass transport (public) taking into consideration (private transport) Integrations between traditional principles with contemporary needs Achieving sustainability goals	<a href="#">Williams &amp; others, 2000</a>
Influence on the old architectural thought The link between past and present Human scale and Proportionality Clarity Texture	<a href="#">Francis Tibbalds, 1992</a>	<i>Spiritual criteria</i> Comforts. Diversity. Visual perception. Excellence and unique personality. Support positive behavior. Users the cultural and social characteristics			
Urban image quality Influence on the old architectural thought Clarity Imagination	<a href="#">Punter &amp; Carmona, 1997</a>	<i>Special criteria</i> By type of activity. Achieving privacy. Appropriate guidance. Security. Movement organization.			
Visibility of cultural identity The urban space should be natural Shape, lines, color, materials	<a href="#">Nasar, 1998</a>				
Simplicity Harmony Clarity of visual perception Excellence Comforts Security	<a href="#">Borton &amp; Mitchell, 2006</a>	Movement and activity. Organizing the movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Communication and optical permeability. Activities in public space.	<a href="#">Carmona &amp; others, 2010</a>	Direct the spaces according to sunlight and shade The sunshine penetrate the urban spaces which makes it more enjoyable places Mobilize and assemble buildings Fountains to enhance natural cooling Environmental pollution Air and wind movement Supply of potable water Good drainage of wastewater Trash disposal	<a href="#">Carmona &amp; others, 2010</a>
Ratio and proportionality. The human scale. Movement. Lines and shapes. Colors, Texture, Items, Materials.	<a href="#">Hani Al Farran, 2010</a>	Social communication. Privacy. Population density. Environmental design. Open public space. Design for walking. Benefit from the infrastructure of the place.			

### 3.1. Aesthetic Classification Criteria for Urban Open Space

Aesthetics is the study of sensations, concepts, and judgments of people, derived from our understanding of art ([Blackburn, 1994](#)). It is essential to clarify there is a disparity between beauty and aesthetics. The term "beauty" is the peculiar attribute of an object, place, or element that the human senses experience as pleasure, satisfaction, and acceptance; but the term "aesthetics" refers to the philosophical side of beauty and its appreciation ([Nia and Atun, 2015](#)). The aesthetic concept refers to the importance of recognizing beautiful elements and images at several levels such as visual and

auditory, as well as spiritual cognition, to reach the reality of any phenomenon that affects emotions. Aesthetics are also the sensory value that an individual feel about the contours of things, through which the individual is pleased, and with such pleasure and enjoyment that the individual self has felt of the value of his/her existence. Architecture, sculptural art, music, and other things that the individual, and society in general, enjoy are products created by creative thought, so the outcome is a concrete form to be dealt with, to please an innate need of humans ([Abdullah, 2009](#)). The relationship between the location and how to understand the population needs is an important factor for enhancing the urban life quality, which is why



aesthetics science has a key role in the development of space through the understanding of psychological sentiment (Alyari, 2018). To create a delightful urban space, many features are proposed, such as vibrancy, richness, multi-use environment, interactive, and full of people at night and on weekends, visually motivating, and attractive for residents and visitors (Figure 3) (Shafthoe, 2008).



**Figure 3:** Jaworznicke Planty Water Playground, Jaworzno, Poland [URL3](#)

By studying the opinions of the authors whose names were mentioned in Table 1, the essential aesthetic characteristics were chosen for their importance, and analysis was conducted on the best example of the required criteria for aesthetics in "Sound Wave" in China, and the use of the designer's approach to this distinctive urban open space, as shown in Table 2. There are ten essential aesthetic elements to consider when designing and analyzing an open urban space: harmony of design elements, ratios and measures, texture, color, materials, lighting, visual perception, audiovisual perception, urban space coordination, and psychological effect. As the lack of interdependence of the elements of urban open space negatively affect the aesthetics clearly, the user will inevitably feel this imbalance, so the harmony of design elements is crucial for design. The aspect of ratios and

measures were chosen because the human scale should be regarded when designing an urban open space, to be usable for all ages, and to make the user feel comfortable and belonging to the place.



Aesthetics of an urban open space also deals with texture, color, and materials. The texture has a clear effect on the perception of the space. Nature is characterized by a blend of colors, so choosing the appropriate colors, suitable for the place, and the way they blend with each other in the urban open space attracts users and make a good impression. Successful selection of specific materials when making any urban open space, has a role in highlighting its identity, the beauty of ugliness of the place.

Aesthetics are affected by lighting, visual, and audiovisual perceptions. For the lighting factor, sun lighting and natural lighting adopt an important role in the formation of urban open space, as well as the distribution of artificial lighting and optical dots at night. These have a prominent role in the completion of its overall aesthetic image. As well, the visual and audiovisual perception factor of urban open space and surrounding area has a role in raising its efficiency, so they must be studied and considered carefully in design.

For the element of urban space coordination, all elements should be linked together smoothly and dynamically to facilitate the movement of visitors, and generate feelings of joy and the desire to discover the place. After incorporating all the above elements, the question arises about the generated psychological effect within the users – feelings of belonging or discomfort, positive or negative impression, and the desire to return to the same urban open space again or not.

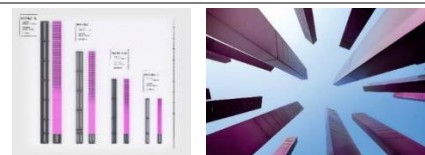
### 3.1.1. Analysis of the Aesthetic Elements in the Study Area; Sound Wave in China

**Table 2:** Selection of the most prominent Aesthetic elements in "Sound wave" (analyzed by the authors) (Figures source: [URL4](#))

Aesthetic Elements (Defined and selected by authors)	"Sound Wave" In China
<b>The Harmony of design elements</b> The "Soundwave" represents the entrance to a large garden. The music, rhythm, and dance with the surrounding landscape were the main landmarks that makeup it.	
<b>Ratios and measures</b> These fins kept the human scale according to their various heights, this urban space can be used by all age groups.	

### Texture

These fins suggest lightness, agility, and harmony in addition to their beautiful shape.



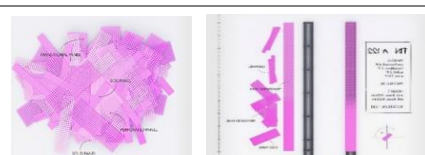
### Color

The fins have vibrant colors, holds four degrees from the purple color.



### Materials

The fins that make up the rhythm of the statue are covered with stainless perforated purple plates, through the process of electrocoagulation (oxidized), the panels are painted so that they maintain their main characteristics without defect and to resist corrosion. Light brightness and music volume are controlled by motion sensors around the site and are activated by pedestrian movement.



### Lighting

The fins are located in four ponds of water, so the lamps are shining through the small holes in the steel at night, lighting the entrance and reflecting on the existing ponds of water to create a magnificent spectacle.



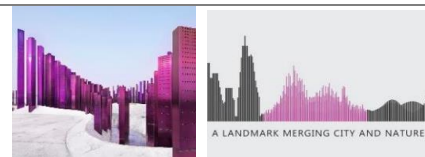
### Visual perception

The statue consists of more than 500 perforated steel fins with vitality colors and varying in height, and the statue creates a visual milestone for the region.



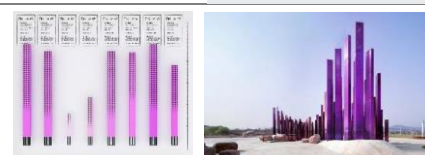
### Audiovisual perception

When visitors enter the Myrtle Tree Garden, they are surrounded by a lot of fins that spread like trees in the landscape, so that the speakers installed in some columns will play traditional Chinese music.



### Elements of urban space coordination

This square is used during the evening by the local people for group dancing, the fins contain lines of lamps to produce the orchestra of 500 fins lighting connected to the square sound system and react in a direct and fast way with the movement in the square.



### Psychological impact

When entering the square, the color and light will attract visitors in a sensual way to the landscape of Myrtle Tree Garden, to give visitors and local dance groups an opportunity to revive Soundwave during the day and night.



## 3.2. Functional Classification Criteria for Urban Open Space

The integration between the aesthetic and function in the urban space is one of the most important conditions of successful design seeking to create the civilized development of any city. The efficiency of designing and coordinating urban spaces depends on a set of functional criteria that any urban space should acquire in order to be able to perform its function at the highest degree of efficiency.

The functional urban space can be defined as the space in which it is possible to practice diverse activities according to the quality of the space and meeting the human needs from the space. These spaces are characterized by dynamism and

movement, in which all forms of human activity interact with and through them. Functional urban spaces are formed as a result of the distribution of a set of buildings in a specific urban area, and it's non-random spaces without a target, but it is a functional necessity that integrates with the multiple uses of residential areas (Elmashad, 2011).

The Superkilen in Denmark was analyzed through the essential elements of a functional space in Table 3. The essential elements for function were selected for their association with the capacity of urban open space to achieve its function efficiently, and include: the method of organizing the public space, diversity, special character, traffic movement, sports activities, communication and visual clarity, entertainment, comforts, and support



of positive behavior. The way in which urban space is organized and the choice of a diverse style in the design of its elements to include sports activities and entertainment, clearly affect its function. The space should also be characterized by a unique character that distinguishes it from other public places. Preferably traffic within and through the

space is considered in design to be easy for all users. Lastly, the space should create a sense of comfort for users and raises their morale to do positive behaviours.

### 3.1. Analysis of Functional Elements in the Study Area; Superkilen in Denmark

**Table 3:** Selection of the most prominent Functional elements in "Superkilen" (analyzed by the authors) (Figures source: [URL5](#))

Functional Elements (Defined and selected by authors)	" Superkilen" in Denmark
<b>The method of organizing the public space</b> "Superkilen" is an urban open space in Nørrebro located in the Quarter of Mimersgade in one of the most ethnically diverse and socially cohobited neighborhoods in Denmark. It can be considered as a diverse exhibition of best urban practices, which come from 60 different nationalities of people living in residential areas around it.	 
<b>Diversity</b> "Superkilen" is a park that promotes diversity, it will be like a world exhibition filled with interesting things from around the world; including benches, lampposts, garbage cans, plants, and water fountains, as well as a variety of activities that can be done.	 
<b>Special Character</b> The main idea of Superkilen's design is to the park is divided into three main areas: The Red Square, The Black Market, and The Green Park. While the Red Square designates the modern, urban life with café, music, and sports. The Black Market is the classic square with fountain and benches. The Green Park is a park for picnics, sports and walking the dog.	  
<b>Traffic movement</b> The traffic regulation in the park has been taken into account, the current cycling paths will be reorganized, and new links will be established linking the surrounding neighborhoods, including full traffic development in the Norrebro area.	 
<b>Sports activities</b> There is a kind of integration among the local population through meetings and participation in physical activities, and entertainment shows held in the central square.	 
<b>Communication and visual clarity</b> There is a high open space next to the large facade towards Norrebrogade, which enables visitors to enjoy stunning views, In addition to the cultural and sports facilities.	 
<b>Entertainment</b> The square is covered with a multifunctional rubber surface to enable ball games, markets, parades, skating rinks in winter, and other activities. Portable platforms in Norrebrohallen can be moved there for open-air movie/outdoor sports performances. To the north, visitors will enjoy basketball courts, parking spaces, and an outdoor fitness area.	 
<b>Comforts</b> This park has included inspired furniture by different cultures; to attract different segments of the population; Such as the Moroccan fountain, Iranian Cuban and Swiss benches, Japanese cherry trees, Norway maple, Thai boxing bags, Indonesian swings, British litter bins, bollards painted with the Ghanaian flag and Irish manhole covers. On weekdays, tables, and permanent barbecue facilities serve as an urban living room for the table game and chess players.	 
<b>Support positive behavior</b> There is a playground where families with children can meet for picnics, sunbathing on the grass, as well as for hockey, badminton, and exercise. Many of the park's components were suggested by the residents themselves. In brief, Superkilen park might inspire many other cities as an example of how to approach the cultural diversity of their neighborhoods.	 

### 3.3. Environmental Classification Criteria for Urban Open Space

Urban planners currently face the challenge to revitalize neglected urban neighborhoods in ways that raise the level of health and promote equality (Corburn, 2009). They have the most important role in promoting a healthy environment to not only improve the quality of life of people living now, but also to plan for the health of future generations through design of the environment in urban spaces (Barton & Tsourou 2000). Natural factors such as sunlight, shade, temperature, humidity, wind, noise, pollution, and weather conditions affect the utilization of urban environments (Carmona & others, 2010). As for global sustainable development, multi-disciplinary environmental ideas are applied to start with urban planning and land use, aiming to improve living conditions of the urban population through achieving a balance between technological progress and improving the health conditions of urban spaces (Gauzin-Müller and Favet, 2002). Taking into account environmental, social, and economic dimensions, the application of environmental standards in urban spaces improves the quality of urban space and raises the environmental reality through the transfer of best practices in the environmental architecture field and urban planning to achieve the sustainable development of cities. It achieves important

objectives such as: reducing the impact of urban development and technology on the natural system, preserving natural resources and discovering renewable energies, and attention to environmental areas that contain unique natural elements (Turner, 1980).







Figure 4: Usaquén Urban Wetland, Bogota, Colombia [URL6]

There are five essential elements to consider in urban space planning and design related to the environment: providing sustainable solutions, use of natural lighting and good ventilation, pollution treatment, return to nature and the sensory experience, and raising the environmental awareness of the users. It was found that in order to obtain a healthy urban open space and to preserve the environment, urban planners should consider sustainable solutions to the current environmental issues of the location. Spaces should consider relying on sun lighting and natural ventilation for creating comfortable spaces over the use of energy-consuming solutions to reduce the carbon footprint. Urban open spaces should seek to decrease environmental pollution through the activities of users. Further, it should be a space that gives people the desire to return to nature through positive sensory experiences. Lastly, the space should promote development of environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility to the space and the overall environment (Figure 4).

#### 3.3.1. Analysis of the Environmental Elements in the Study Area; Victor Civita Plaza in Brazil

**Table 4:** Selection of the most prominent environmental elements in "Victor Civita Plaza" (Analyzed by the authors) (Figures source: URL7)

Environmental Elements (Defined by Authors)	"Victor Civita Plaza" In Sao Paulo, Brazil	
<b>Provide a sustainable solution</b> Located in a central urban area, the site of the garbage dump is also an innovative idea to revitalize a polluted urban area. A large wooden surface on the site was constructed without excavations.	 	
<b>Natural lighting and good ventilation</b> Natural lighting is relied upon and take advantage of sunlight for a more energetic feeling, and choosing the right direction to take advantage of the wind appropriately	 	



### Pollution treatment

A new design has been proposed that addresses the problem of pollution through the application of a sustainable solution that integrates social, political, cultural and environmental elements.



### Return to nature and sensory experience

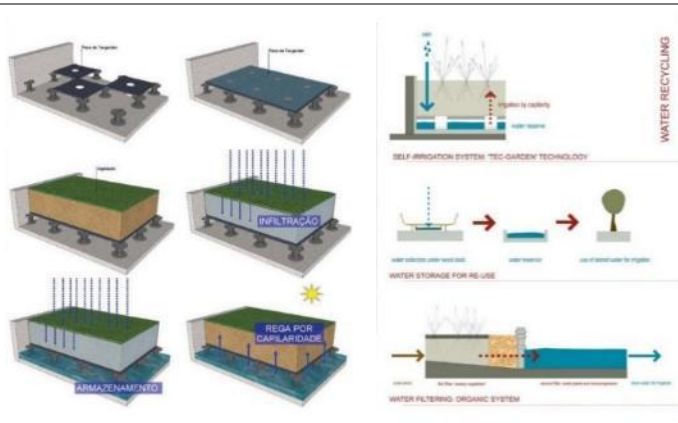
Approved and recycled Brazilian hardwoods were selected over the site, supported by a steel structure, to reduce contact with contaminated soil, such as the frame of a ship.

The surface floats at a height of three feet above the original terrain and extends in a long diagonal shape. Exhibit panels explain the various sustainable processes in the plaza, including the recycling of wood.



### Environmental awareness by users

This environmental project aims to promote community participation and development. Visitors will be able to learn about the organic water recycling system used in the plaza; in pursuit of increasing their environmental awareness.



## 4. Case Study: "Şişhane Park" in Istanbul, Turkey

<b>Architects</b>	SANALarc
<b>Location</b>	Bereketzade Mh., Büyük Hendek Caddesi No:50, 34200 Beyoğlu/Istanbul, Turkey
<b>GPS Coordinates</b>	41° 1' 41.3364" and 28° 58' 22.3248"
<b>Design Team</b>	Orkun Beydagi - Cibele Sanchez Llupart - Leo Pollor - Begüm Öner
<b>Area</b>	30000.0 m2
<b>Project Year</b>	2014
<b>Budget</b>	\$10M – 50M





"Şişhane Park" is located adjacent to the historical area of Galata Suriçi in the European part of Istanbul between the southwest corner of Beyoğlu and Tarlabası streets. The aims of the park are: to reduce the entry of cars into the historic area and to reroute traffic density to enable users to experiment with alternative public spaces. Şişhane Park cuts through the city's streets with alternative approaches and unconventional elements compared to other parks in Istanbul. It aims to have distinctive lines in

a location with historical importance, be attractive for quality social life and make people interact with natural materials like wood rails and others. The design is elliptical so the users don't lose visual and cognitive comfort. It is an open public space that has been formed as a park connected by vertical turnover lines connected to each other by ramps and stairs. The park contains a playground, seating areas, walking trails, and six floors for parking where each floor is characterized by a different color, so the user has different spatial experiences (Tay and Canbay Türkyilmaz, 2018).



Figure 5: "Şişhane Park" Site Plan [URL8]

**Table 5.** Highlight the strengths and weaknesses of "Şişhane Park"; (Improved by author; Figures source: by authors).

Strengths of Şişhane Park	Weaknesses of Şişhane Park
 <p>The location of the park gave it great importance and a beautiful view of Istanbul city.</p>	 <p>Having an outdoor café within the main square of the park is thoughtless and reduced the importance of the main square.</p>
 <p>The gradient method of heights is good for the best view.</p>	 <p>Putting the chairs and tables of the outdoor cafe in the middle of the main road for the park.</p>
 <p>The presence of closed garage.</p>	 <p>The elements of the Şişhane park are vulnerable to different weather conditions.</p>





There are many elevators that link the closed garage's floors clearly.



There is no urban furniture that protects users from sun, rain or any sudden weather fluctuations, reducing usability throughout the year.



Each floor in the garage has a distinctive color.



The entertainment corner in the Şişhane park is unusable because of damage to the used materials.

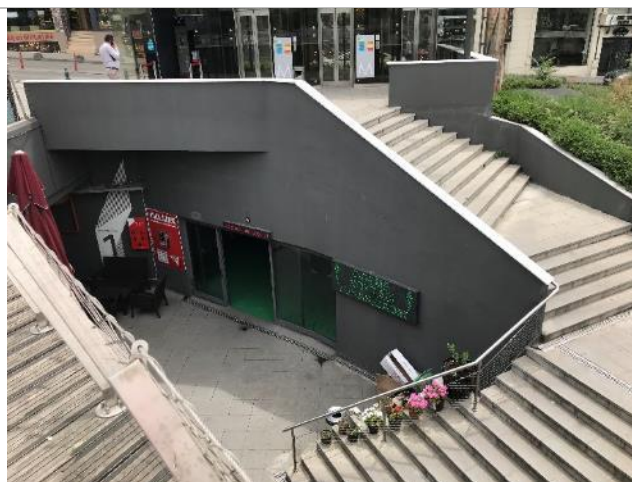


Garden paths link with each other well.



The material in the entertainment corner has deteriorated and is left unmaintained.





Distribution of the stairs within Şişhane Park was acceptable.



Ground floor tiles are short-lived and poor quality.



The shape of the planting ponds is suitable for the park elements.



The quality of the used wood materials in the park is very poor and needs maintenance.



The gradient colors of plants were appropriate.



The plants in Şişhane park need attention and care. More thoughtful landscaping with diversity of types.







The assessment of the Aesthetic elements of Şişhane Park (2014- 2019) has revealed that most of the aesthetic characteristics of this park have deteriorated. The harmony of the elements of the design existed previously, but the addition of exterior cafe has not been studied. The harmony between the elements of the park has been weakened. The characteristics of the scale, texture, color, materials and visual perception

have become worse over time. The psychological impact now is weaker due to neglect of the park's maintenance.



**Table 6.** Analysis of "Şişhane Park" according to derived aesthetic standards; (Improved by author); figures source (Before: [URL8](#), after: by authors)

	BEFORE (2014)		AFTER (2019)	
<b>The Harmony of Design Elements</b>		√		×
			There is an additional outdoor cafe at the core of the park.	
<b>Ratios and Measures</b>		√		√
			There is no equal access for disabled persons in the park.	
<b>Texture</b>		√		×
			Most of the textures have deteriorated.	
<b>Color</b>		√		×
	Good variation in color accents.		Only plants provide accent color in the park environment.	
<b>Materials</b>		√		×
	Wood and concrete		Most of the textures have deteriorated.	

<p><b>Lighting</b></p>			<p>✓</p>
<p><b>Visual Perception</b></p>			<p>✓</p>
<p><b>Audiovisual Perception</b></p>	<p>City noises can be heard.</p>	<p>The highway traffic can be heard prominently, and wooden elements don't absorb sound to reduce echo.</p>	<p>×</p>
<p><b>Elements of Urban Space Coordination</b></p>			<p>×</p>

Şişhane Park offers a large public open space for cultural events as well as smaller intimate spaces for resting, enjoying the shade of trees, playing, and spending time in groups. It also features well designed and visually engaging underground parking for up to 1000 vehicles which partly connects with some of the nature in the park above. It is a place to experience the urban context of Istanbul while having a strong connection with the surrounding natural environment.

It was observed that the functional characteristics of Şişhane Park were slightly affected by the deterioration of the aesthetic properties of its elements. For the characteristics of diversity, traffic movement, communication, entertainment, comfort, and the support of positive behavior, these characteristics have not weakened over time. However, the method of organizing the public space is worse because of

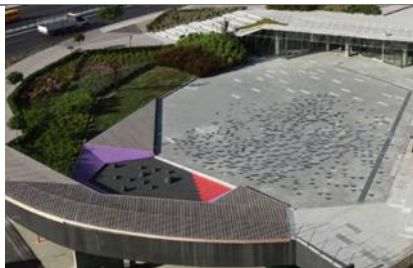
the external cafe on its main road. There is no possibility of doing sports activities there.



**Table 7.** Analysis of "Şişhane Park" according to derived functional elements; (Improved by author) (Figures source: Before- [URL8](#), after- by authors).

	BEFORE (2014)		AFTER (2019)	
<b>The Method of Organizing the Public Space</b>		✓		×
			There is an outdoor café on the main circulation road of the park.	
<b>Diversity</b>		✓		✓
<b>Special Character</b>		✓		×
<b>Traffic Movement</b>		✓		✓
<b>Sports Activities</b>		×		×
<b>Communication and Visual Clarity</b>		✓		✓

### Entertainment



✓

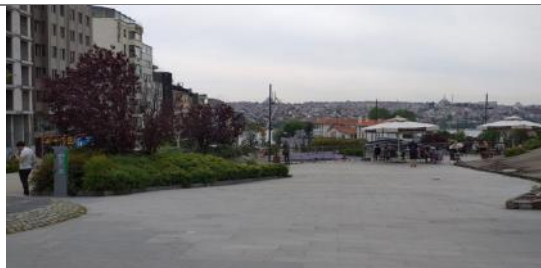


✗

### Comforts



✓



✗

### Support Positive Behavior



✓



✓

The intention behind Şişhane Park is to revitalize the level of interaction of residents and visitors with the natural characteristics of this unique urban environment.

#### Energy + Natural Light/Ventilation:

The motion sensor system for lighting and LED lighting makes it possible to supply the park with sustainable power. The upper level of parking is open to the air and natural light while the five lower levels are ventilated by cross ventilation and an automatic fan system. Also, the drawings of a walking man encourage people to take the stairs for more movement.

#### Water Recapture, Stormwater + Heat Island Effect:

The water restoration system for the large green roof panel does not require maintenance. This reduces the surface of the landscape, wooden floors and light granite options by 30% of the damage to the heat island effect. These features also reduce the project's impact on stormwater infrastructure in the historic region.

It was observed that most of the environmental characteristics of Şişhane Park were not achieved except to provide a sustainable solution, natural lighting, and good ventilation. This project aims to form the Şişhane Park gate to

Galata and other Beyoğlu neighborhoods as well as to promote social life in Kasımpaşa. The upper terrace creates a view surface through Haliç which enhances the dense and noisy area of the Tarlabası road consisting of six lanes. The center creates a protected outer space, and the third allows the flow of natural light and ventilation to the entrance level near the parking area. Both upper and lower seats are formed in the face of moderation and summer solstice while plants and terraces ease noise pollution in the city center.

**Table 8.** Analysis of "Şişhane Park" according to derived environmental elements; (Improved by author); figures source (Before: URL8, after: by authors).

BEFORE (2014)		AFTER (2019)	
Provide a Sustainable Solution	√	Damage to the park has weakened its environmental performance	×
Natural Lighting and Good Ventilation			√
Pollution Treatment	×		×
Return to nature and sensory experience	×		×
Environmental Awareness by Users	×		×

**Table 9.** Analysis of "Şişhane Park" according to derived aesthetic, functional and environmental standards; (Improved by authors).

AESTHETIC ELEMENTS			FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS			ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS		
	Before	After		Before	After		Before	After
The Harmony of Design Elements	√	×	The Method of Organizing the Public Space	√	×	Provide A Sustainable Solution	√	×
Ratios and Measures	√	√	Diversity	√	√	Natural Lighting and Good Ventilation	√	√
Texture	√	×	Special Character	√	×	Pollution Treatment	×	×
Color	√	×	Traffic Movement	√	√	Return to nature and sensory experience	×	×
Materials	√	×	Sports Activities	×	×	Environmental Awareness by Users	×	×
Lighting	√	√	Communication and Visual Clarity	√	√			
Visual Perception	√	×	Entertainment	√	×			
Audiovisual Perception	×	×	Comforts	√	×			
Elements of Urban Space Coordination	√	×	Support Positive Behavior	√	√			
Psychological Impact	√	×						

## 6. Results and Discussion

This research highlights the main characteristics of successful urban open space in terms of aesthetics, function, and the environment, the importance of their integration, and their close association with each other. This was achieved through the study of established views by

prominent researchers on this subject to identify essential elements to efficient and successful urban open spaces. For further verification, the previously inferred Standards (aesthetic, functional, and environmental) have been applied to successful global examples that have met these criteria and received numerous



architectural awards, as well as people- and user- satisfaction.

These examples were presented and analyzed to clarify the main reasons for their construction and the successful methods of dealing with the imbalance in the place. Lastly, this research provided an analysis of the essential design elements for urban open spaces in "Şişhane Park" to display the strengths and weaknesses, with a view to raising the quality of public spaces in the world generally, and in Istanbul in particular.

Overall the condition of the Şişhane Park was previously better and has shown severe deterioration over time (5 years) that has affected the park's efficiency and use by the population.

- In aesthetic terms, many of its characteristics have been lost, and its condition deteriorated badly; such as harmony, texture, color, materials, visual perception, elements of urban space coordination and psychological effect.
- The deterioration of aesthetic properties in "Şişhane Park" weaken the functional and environmental characteristics.
- There is a clear shortfall of environmental characteristics.
- According to the analysis part of the study, it can be said that aesthetic aspects have greatly affected the use and success of the space more than other factors – the neglected value of the park make it useless and unusable, and turned it into a mere multi-story garage.
- Environmental aspects were the hardest hit among other aspects, followed by aesthetics aspects, and functional aspects were the least affected.

The purpose of this research is to clarify the importance of the interrelation of aesthetic, functional, and environmental factors among them, and their impact on urban open space. Taking into account these factors in the process of urban design is important to the product's efficiency and success. It was also noted that most of the previous studies dealt with one of these factors affecting urban open space. Therefore, it is important that characteristics must be met across all three aesthetic, functional, and environment for the success of urban open space. Additionally, the criteria across these considerations should be integrated, both in research and in urban planning and design. Examining the case study of Şişhane Park, which is considered one of the most important modern parks located in a historical area, helps to understand the inter-relationships between these elements, and how they affect one another in

failure. Although "Şişhane Park" has won many awards for its unique design, the current state of it has become very poor. It has lost many of its advantages over time. It becomes clear that application of urban open space standards to design and planning of any urban open space will result in a truly aesthetically pleasing, functionally successful, and environmentally respectful space that preserves the environment and is used by people.

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### Conflict of interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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